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Letter dated 1 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey to you that the Joint Political and Security Mechanism established by the Government of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan held its meeting on 31 October 2017. The two sides agreed to immediately reactivate the Mechanism and its associated mechanisms, namely, the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Joint Security Committee. They also agreed to establish the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The meeting directed the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism and the Joint Security Committee to move swiftly to verify the redeployment of forces out of the Safe Demilitarized Border Zone. The outcome document of the meeting is attached (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

17-19524 (E) 071117

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Annex to the letter dated 1 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

JOINT POLITICAL AND SECURITY MECHANISM
Between the Republic of the Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan

Sideline Meeting
Tuesday, October 31, 2017
KHARTOUM — SUDAN

We the Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism (JPSM) of the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan;

Acting in preparation for the high-level meeting of heads of state, His Excellency President Omar Hassan al Bashir and His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit;

Recommitting ourselves and our sisterly nations to the principles of good neighbourliness, national sovereignty and territorial integrity;

Reiterating our full and unwavering commitment to the full implementation of the Agreement on Security Arrangements entered into force between our two countries on 27 September 2012 in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa;

Motivated by the utmost and continuous quest to urgently transform the border situation for the common good of our people;

Regretful of the delay and deadlock hitherto witnessed in resuming the conduct of the regular JPSM and JSC meetings;

Grateful, nonetheless, for the continuous support of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA);

Encouraged by the renewed mutual aspiration to regularly conduct the meetings of the Joint Political and Security Mechanism; and

Grateful for the new positive spirit cultivated between the Heads of State of the two countries;

Met here at the Ministry of Defence Headquarters of the Republic of the Sudan in Khartoum, this 31st day of October 2017, and DECIDED THE FOLLOWING:

1. The immediate reactivation of the JPSM and its associated sub-mechanisms, namely the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) and the Joint Security Committee (JSC) of the Chiefs of Military Intelligence;

2. The establishment of the Safe Demilitarised Border Zone (SDBZ) according to the framework agreed in the previous meetings, in particular that of 14 October 2015;

3. Direct the JBVMM and the JSC, with the support of the AU and UNISFA, to swiftly move to verify the redeployment of forces from the SDBZ in accordance with the previously agreed parameters;

4. Direct the JBVMM and the JSC to monitor, verify and report on any allegations of violations by the two Parties along the SDBZ;

5. Opening of Phase 1 of the border crossing corridors as previously agreed after completion of the necessary arrangements by the Joint Technical Border Corridors Committee (JTBCC) in accordance with the JPSM Decisions of 18th September 2012 and JTBCC Decisions of 21 April 2013;

6. Implementation of the JPSM decisions reached in Khartoum on 5th June 2016 and those of the Addis Ababa extraordinary session of 15 May 2017;

7. Commit to the implementation of the above decisions within one month from 31st October 2017 (and in case of delay not later than 31st December 2017); and

8. Schedule to kick-start the resumption of the regular JPSM meetings on 8th January 2018 in Juba.

Agreed between and signed by:

Gen. (*psc*) Awad M. Ahmed Ibn Ouf
Minister of Defence
Republic of the Sudan
JPSM Co-Chair

Hon. Eng. Kuol Manyangg Juuk
Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs
Republic of South Sudan
JPSM Co-Chair